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~~INFORMATION SECRET~~

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania/Greece/Italy

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DATE DISTR. 19 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Evangelo Kirko, Greek Emissary,
in Rome

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(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. November 1948

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Evangelo Kirko, an Albanian attorney residing in Athens, was in Rome during November as a representative of the Greek government. His mission was to establish contact with Albanian refugee leaders in Italy.
2. Kirko had a number of conferences with such Albanian leaders as Ismajl Bey Verlaci, Xhemil Dino, and Eqrem Bey Vlora, as well as with representatives of the Balli Kombetar, ostensibly for the purpose of establishing a rapprochement between the Albanian anti-Communist refugee groups and the Greek government.
3. Greek agents in Rome have for some time been attempting to sabotage the efforts of Ismajl Bey Verlaci to establish a united anti-Communist Albanian front, one of whose main principles would be friendship with Italy. Source believes that the Greek government is fearful that Verlaci's efforts jeopardize its own claims on southern Albanian territory. In the event that Albania were freed from Communist domination, source continued, Italy could be expected to resist such claims if it saw a chance to regain in some measure its pre-1939 position of influence in Albania. Verlaci's united Albanian front would provide Italy with the framework of a pro-Italian government, and would thus give Italy every reason to oppose Greek irredentism. Kirko's visit is interpreted by source as a move to sound out the possibility of modifying the pro-Italian orientation of Verlaci's followers in favor of Greece.

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